



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Copper Theft

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.05 pm): I rise this evening to remind the Premier that we are still waiting for action on his promise to prevent Queensland copper thefts. I specifically want to remind the Premier that back in May 2024 he had this to say on the subject: 'No more reviews, no more talkfests. It is time to legislate.' I remember these words well for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the Premier came to my electorate, the Harris Avenue sports facility in Narangba, to make this promise on copper theft. I was not invited, but I happened to be holding a mobile office just down the road that day, as I do quite often, and I saw them all coming in. Harris Avenue is a council owned sports precinct. It is the home of the mighty Narangba Eagles Football Club and the Narangba Demons Baseball Club. Sadly, these clubs have been the victims of copper theft numerous times over the years and the City of Moreton Bay and its ratepayers have had to foot the bill.

It was the experience of these clubs and others in my electorate, clubs right across Queensland, increasing reports from the energy industry, construction sites and electrical businesses that led the Labor government to conduct a parliamentary inquiry into scrap metal theft, including copper, during the last parliament. I chaired that inquiry by the Transport and Resources Committee. That is the second reason I have been following the LNP's actions—or, rather, lack of action—on copper theft. Our Labor government had committed to support six of the committee's seven recommendations.

We see no move by the LNP to follow up on this issue at all. Maybe the victims of copper theft are not part of the Premier's core business or not one of his metrics. I am not seeing any green shoots in the copper theft space. If the Premier does have a plan, please let us know so my sports clubs, the electrical contractors on local development sites, and the Energex workers out there sorting out stripped power poles and highway lights can have some comfort. Let the City of Moreton Bay in on the plan before they consider raising our rates in the budget to recover repair costs over and over.

The Premier says he is tough on crime. That should include the theft of copper and other scrap metals, so why does he delay on his promise to 'give police the teeth they need'? The LNP is happy to move an urgency motion for electoral law reform. We are still almost 1,000 days out from the next election, so I am not sure why that is as urgent as copper theft—unless it is so the LNP can take more money from donors before the financial year ends. I submit to the Premier that stamping out scrap metal theft is more important than lining their coffers, but it has been 683 days since the Premier said it is time to legislate and he has been in government for almost 500 of them. So much for a fresh start. This LNP state government is getting staler by the minute.